

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 413

S.P. 140

In Senate, February 7, 2017

**An Act To Limit the Influence of Lobbyists by Expanding the
Prohibition on Accepting Political Contributions**

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CHENETTE of York.

Cosponsored by Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford and

Senator: CHIPMAN of Cumberland, Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, HICKMAN of
Winthrop.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §1015, sub-§3, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 286, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 B. The Governor, a member of the Legislature or any constitutional officer or the
5 staff or agent of the Governor, a member of the Legislature or any constitutional
6 officer may not intentionally solicit or accept a contribution from a lobbyist, lobbyist
7 associate or employer ~~during any period of time in which the Legislature is convened~~
8 ~~before final adjournment~~, except for a qualifying contribution as defined under Title
9 21-A, section 1122, subsection 7. A lobbyist, lobbyist associate or employer may not
10 intentionally give, offer or promise a contribution, other than a qualifying
11 contribution, to the Governor, a member of the Legislature or any constitutional
12 officer or the staff or agent of the Governor, a member of the Legislature or any
13 constitutional officer ~~during any time in which the Legislature is convened before~~
14 ~~final adjournment~~. These prohibitions apply to contributions directly and indirectly
15 solicited or accepted by, or given, offered and promised to a political action
16 committee, ballot question committee or party committee of which the Governor, a
17 member of the Legislature, a constitutional officer or the staff or agent of these
18 officials is a treasurer, officer or primary fund-raiser or decision maker.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 Current law prohibits the Governor, members of the Legislature, constitutional
21 officers and the staff or agents of the Governor, members of the Legislature and
22 constitutional officers from soliciting or accepting contributions from a lobbyist, lobbyist
23 associate or employer while the Legislature is convened in session. This bill extends
24 application of that prohibition year-round, regardless of whether the Legislature is in
25 session.